

OIC criticises G-7 over Bosnia

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), an umbrella group for the world's Muslims, said Saturday that the Group of Seven (G-7) summit should have been more forceful on the subject of great industrial nations on Bosnia contained some positive elements," said a statement issued by OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid. He added, however, "We hoped that the leaders would have taken a stronger attitude in dealing with the problem." Mr. Gabid said U.N. Security Council resolutions on the former Yugoslavia must be implemented to prevent further bloodshed. "Any hesitation or delay in this and, consequently, (become) a direct threat to the world peace," he warned. He called for "international pressure" on the Serbs for a ceasefire. The OIC has persistently called for lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia. It also has sought U.N. military intervention.

Volume 17 Number 5353

AMMAN SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1993 MUHARRAM 21, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Mubarak inquires after King's health

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak inquiring about his health condition. The King, currently on a private visit to London with Her Majesty Queen Noor, thanked Mr. Mubarak and wished him good health and happiness. King Hussein was Thursday discharged from hospital after being treated for an irregular heartbeat problem.

King plans to visit China in September

AMMAN (R) — King Hussein plans to visit China in September for talks on Middle East peace and bilateral ties, official sources said Saturday. His visit to Beijing will be his second official trip to China — one of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members — since 1983.

Israel arrests 3 in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (AFP) — An Israeli army undercover unit arrested three wanted Palestinians including a military chief after a shootout overnight, Palestinian sources said Saturday. Troops surrounded the house where Majed Al Helu, aged 21, and two other men were bidding to Jayabiyah refugee camp on the Gaza Strip. After a brief exchange of gunfire in which the house owner was wounded, Mr. Helu, Hassan Al Amudi, 21, and Emad Shehata Khalil, 20, surrendered and walked out with their hands up. Mr. Helu was Gaza City head of the Hawks, the combat unit of Fateh.

U.S. helps Kurds to have phone link

ERBIL (AFP) — Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq will be linked to the international communications network as part of an agreement signed Friday with a Los Angeles firm, a company spokesman said. John Early of Telemobile Inc. told AFP that Kurds will be able to make domestic calls as early as October and international calls several months later. The first phase of the project will cost about \$250,000, he said, adding that the U.S. State Department approved the deal between the Los Angeles-based Telemobile Inc. and the Kurdish "government" in northern Iraq. "The State Department has offered to contact both the United Nations sanctions committee and the Turkish authorities to get the necessary permission" to go ahead with the project, Mr. Early said.

Qatar 'favours strong Iran'

NICOSIA (R) — Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jaber Al Thani said Saturday he favoured a strong Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. "The Qatari foreign minister said the presence of a strong and powerful Iran is in the interest of the whole region," IRNA quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying in Tehran. He flew to Iran Saturday at the start of a regional tour during which he will discuss bilateral ties and easing regional tensions. IRNA said Sheikh Hamad stressed that Gulf states were keen on improving ties with Iran, adding, "I hope that any likely misunderstanding between some Arab countries and Iran will be removed."

18 held in Cairo bombings

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian security forces arrested 18 Islamic militants suspected of involvement in Cairo bombings and seized 35 weapons Saturday north of the Egyptian capital, police said. The operation took place in the Nile Delta province of Minya, where the militants sought refuge after five unclaimed bomb attacks in Cairo since February that killed 20 people, including two foreign tourists, and wounded 80, police said. Egypt's radical Gamma Islamiyah, which has led a campaign to overthrow the secular government, has denied any responsibility in the attacks. The authorities have to date failed to identify those behind the bombings. Police said the suspects were transferred to Cairo to be interrogated by the state security services.

Royal Decree sets in motion campaign '93

Dissolution of Parliament, changes to Election Law expected soon

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

current Parliament's mandate on Nov. 23.

AMMAN — The announcement of a Royal Decree that "elections will be held according to the law," has set in motion the beginning of the 1993 campaign for the 12th Parliament.

The Royal Decree, which was

announced late Friday night, is the first in a series of steps that will involve dissolving the current Parliament, setting a date by the government for the elections and, as has been largely expected, issuing a new temporary law for those elections.

The government is about to

announce Nov. 8, which is a Friday, as the new date for the first multi-party elections since 1956, according to informed sources. The official announcements on the date and the dissolution of the current Parliament will come within a week, after Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has briefed his Cabinet on proposed amendments to the Election Law, the sources said.

According to the Jordanian law, the government will have to finalise all constitutional and legal steps leading to the elections before July 23, exactly four months before the end of the

amendments to the law be passed by Parliament.

Sixty-two deputies last month issued a statement in which they said they will call for an extraordinary session of the House in the event of the government announcing its intention to amend the Election Law. The Constitution stipulates that an extraordinary session be held at the request of 41 deputies or more.

Well-informed sources said

that proposed amendments to the Election Law would not touch current district distribution but would require voters to cast only one ballot for their candidates. This is the one-person-one-vote system that His Majesty King Hussein first mentioned in his letter of acceptance of former Prime Minister Mudar Badran's resignation in 1991. Another amendment to the law would lower the voting age from 19 to 16.

But even supporters of the one-person-one-vote system argue that the formula would not work if the current voting districts are not redrawn.

"The formula would not be suitable" if the current voting

(Continued on page 10)

Ross upbeat after Cairo talks on ideas to break deadlock

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Egyptian and American officials huddled for nearly five hours Saturday over new ideas that the United States has offered to resolve obstacles to progress in Middle East peace talks.

Both Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Dennis Ross, head of a visiting U.S. State Department delegation, expressed satisfaction with the meeting and indicated efforts to push forward the peace process were at a crucial stage.

"We are hopeful that over time we are going to succeed in our common objectives of making peace," Mr. Ross said after the talks.

He told reporters he had "detailed, intensive and useful discussions" during the talks with Mr. Musa and Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser.

"The Egyptians and Americans are working very well together.

We are truly full partners in this effort ... we are making every effort to make progress, to find ways to narrow the gap between

the parties and I am very satisfied with the discussions that we have had today," Mr. Ross said.

He would not say if his consultations had produced a breakthrough in the deadlocked talks.

"We are at a stage in the process where these kind of discussions and other discussions that we're involved in with the other parties are going to be most productive if we keep the details private at this stage," Mr. Ross and his team flew to Cairo from Israel, where they held talks with Israelis and Palestinians on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Ross is also to visit Damascus and Amman. It is not known if he will visit Lebanon, which is also a party to the peace talks.

Mr. Ross refused to elaborate

on the nature of the discussions,

stressing however that Egypt and the United States were working together "to narrow the gaps between the parties" engaged in the peace talks.

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(Continued on page 10)

Husseini rejects Peres' offer to specify 'self-rule' land without Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — The leader of the Palestinian peace talks delegation Saturday rejected an Israeli offer to specify territory the Jewish state was willing to concede in exchange for keeping Jerusalem off the agenda.

Faisal Husseini told reporters here that "Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. Jerusalem is the capital of the future Palestinian state, and any dialogue that will attempt to exclude Jerusalem is totally rejected."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Friday suggested Israel might reverse longstanding policy and negotiate clearly delineated areas for autonomy in Jerusalem. Therefore, all what is based on some thing illegal is illegal."

Mr. Husseini also said that

Washington was considering

altering U.S. compromise proposal on Palestinian autonomy.

The U.S. State Department's

Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross told Palestinian negotiators in Jerusalem on Friday that the United States "were ready to

examine new formulations about

the geographic depth (of Palesti-

nian autonomy) and Jerusalem."

Mr. Husseini said.

"In any case they should think about it if they want to achieve results," Mr. Husseini said.

The Palestinians will reject any

new U.S. proposals if they fail to

conform to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates a land-for-peace exchange,

he added.

Palestinian sources said that

Mr. Husseini could meet Mr.

Ross on Monday or Tuesday in Jerusalem.

The U.S. compromise proposal

for breaking the deadlock in

Beirut by a Palestinian funda-

mental group that calls itself

Islamic Jihad-Bait Al Maqdis.

Security officials said that one of

the Kataynas hit an Israeli

army radio station near the

coastal area of Ras Al Bayad,

about eight kilometers north of

the Israeli frontier. It caused only

minor damage, the officials said.

Another rocket struck a water

tank belonging to the Fijian

battalion of the U.N. Interim

Force in Lebanon, a U.N. officer

said.

In exchange, he said, the Palesti-

nians would have to agree not

to discuss Jerusalem.

Previously, Israel was willing

only to discuss limited self-rule

that would give Palestinians con-

trol over activities such as educa-

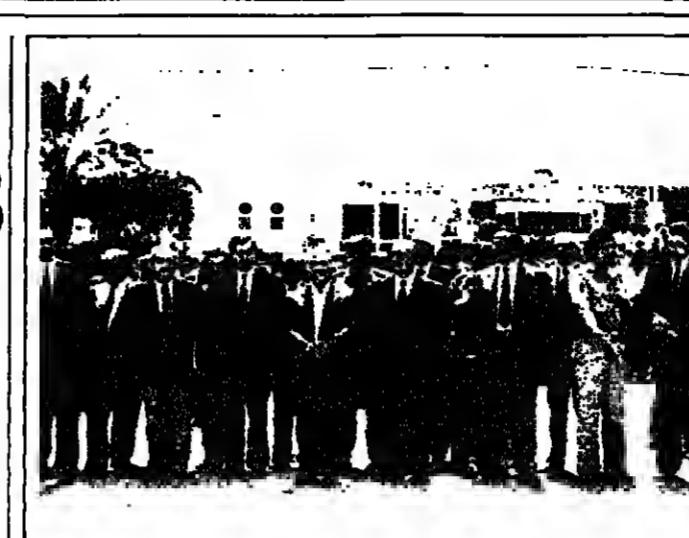
tion and local government but

would not include geographic

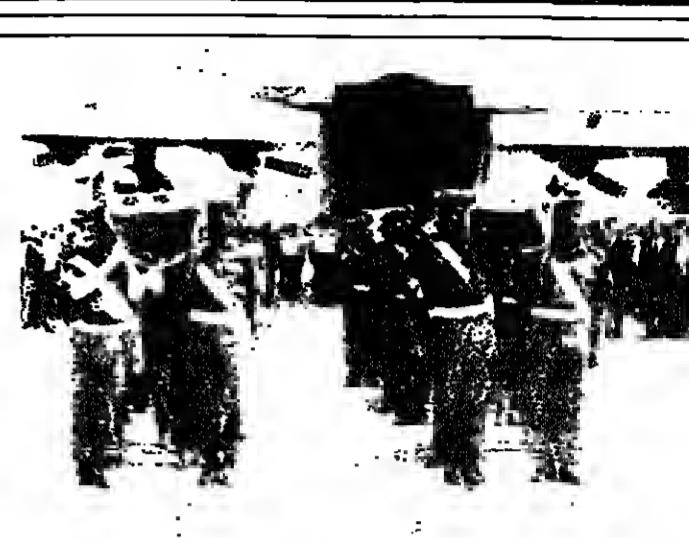
boundaries.

Mr. Husseini ridiculed Mr.

(Continued on page 10)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior officials Saturday await the arrival of a plane carrying the victims of a bus accident in



Yemen. (Right) Soldiers bring down the coffins of the nine Jordanians who died in the crash (Petra photos)

Victims of Yemen accident brought home Senior diplomat, 8 dependents killed in bus crash

King condoles families of victims

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Saturday sent a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, expressing deep sorrow over the deaths and injuries of Jordanians in the accident in Yemen and asking the Regent to convey his condolences to the families of the victims.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, and senior officials received the cream-coloured coffins, draped in Jordanian flags, were brought here by a military aircraft. Nine other Jordanians injured in the accident Friday while on a private bus tour also arrived on the plane.

walking on crutches or lying on stretchers, were immediately taken by helicopter to the Hussein Medical Centre.

The dead diplomat, Othman Al Abbadi, served as the embassy's first secretary. Besides his family, the wife and daughter of the medical services attaché and the son and daughter of its military attaché, also died in the accident.

An Iraqi victim of the crash, Suleiman Daoud, a doctor, also returned on the plane en route for burial in Baghdad. His wife and four children

were also taken to hospital for treatment.

The bus was carrying the, bodies of the victims.

Those killed in the accident were: Othman Al Abbadi, counsellor at the embassy in Sanaa, his wife Hikmat Quteishat, his children Firas, Ahmad, Samar, and Sahar, Zein Majali, the wife of health attaché Suleiman Al Fayez, and Fayez's daughter Lujein.

Christopher warned Friday that the United States was ready to use force if Iraq refused to allow the inspectors to complete their task.

Baghdad said it would only allow surveillance cameras to be installed if it received concessions in return. It is seeking an end to U.N. sanctions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait three years ago, arguing it has complied with Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Christopher warned that the use of force is entirely possible if Iraq blocked the latest mission, emphasising that the U.N. Security Council would have to authorise any attack.

Iraqi Information Minister Hamed Yusef Hammadi said Saturday that Mr. Christopher and President Bill Clinton had been "ill informed" about the camera row.

Baghdad has not refused to allow their installation, but asked for a postponement because the



Khaled Nezzar

(Continued on page 3)

Nezzar replaced as Algeria defence chief

Combined agency dispatches

ALGIERS — Khaled Nezzar, reported strongman of the Algerian government, has been replaced as defence minister, a communiqué from the presidency said Saturday.

Former General Lamine Zeroual was named defence minister and the communiqué said Gen. Nezzar remains a member of the High State Council, Algeria's ruling council which is fighting a wave of Islamic militant violence.

Gen. Mohammad Lamari, head of Algeria's anti-terrorist units, was appointed army chief-of-staff, replacing Gen. Abdul Malek Guenaitia, who was given other duties.

Gen. Nezzar, Lamari and Guenaitia

Tighter sanctions on Libya unlikely

CAIRO (Agencies) — Western and Arab diplomats said Saturday tighter U.N. sanctions on Libya were unlikely soon despite recent consultations on the issue between the United States and its allies.

"Even if (the Americans) got Britain and France to agree, there's still Russia and China among the permanent (Security Council) members and then all the others. It's still very unlikely," said one Western diplomat.

Limited sanctions were imposed in April 1992 over Libya's refusal to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain two Libyans suspected in the bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

Libya also refused to cooperate with French investigations into another air raid bombing over Niger in 1989.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters at the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised nations he had spoken to G-7 foreign ministers about banning the sale of oil equipment and freezing some Libyan assets when U.N. sanctions come up for renewal on Aug. 15.

But diplomats said many developing countries, led by a vocal Arab and Muslim lobby, would object to what they saw as another instance of Western double standards in international affairs, and other states were not prepared to push the issue.

Many Arab and Muslim states are already outraged at what they view as Western indifference to the killing of Bosnian Muslims by Serbs, compared with the ready use of force to make an Arab state like Iraq comply with U.N. sanctions.

"I can only say there is a distinct impression of double dealing by the West," said an Arab diplomat.

The diplomats said the wording of the G-7's political communiqué was significant because it bracketed Libya in the same category as Iraq for violating international law.

"We are determined to keep up the pressure on Iraq and Libya to implement all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions in full," the statement said.

But the diplomats said strong U.S. statements on Libya were aimed mainly at persuading the American public that the Clinton administration is tough on perceived international terrorism at a time when the issue is hot at home.

"They'll be able to say 'at least we tried.' I think that's what they're aiming for," said one diplomat.

Arab and developing country support for Libya has actually hardened since the sanctions were last reviewed in April.

A summit of African leaders in Cairo last month criticised the suffering caused to the Libyan people by the sanctions and praised Tripoli's offer to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing for trial in a neutral country.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday the United States wants tougher sanctions against Libya.

"I talked to my colleagues about stronger sanctions against Libya for the Pan Am 103 raid," said Mr. Christopher in a U.S. television interview from Tokyo.

Under U.N. Resolution 748, Tripoli has until Aug. 15 to extradite the two suspects in the bombing to either Britain or the United States.

"There can be more oil-related sanctions. There could be freezes on their assets," said Mr. Christopher.

The secretary of state declined to say how U.S. allies had responded, but said he was optimistic that there would be "something new in place" when the deadline expired.

Mr. Christopher said that he had met with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, with additional discussions expected in Paris.

Some European nations, particularly France, Germany and Italy, have commercial interests in Libya. U.S. oil companies are also present in Libya in the form of European subsidiaries.

With existing penalties set to expire on Aug. 15, "that's the kind of deadline which means they will either be extended or hopefully they will be increased or toughened," Mr. Christopher said.

Possibilities include an embargo of various oil equipment, like production or refining equipment, and also asset freezes might be effective, he said.

Mr. Christopher expressed hope that Libya would finally comply with the U.S. and U.N. demands.

"They send out a lot of emissaries offering various olive branches but none of them seem to develop in a way that would give any hope that they want to comply," he said.

Clinton, Mitterrand meet

President Clinton raised the issue of expanding sanctions against Libya during his bilateral talks in Tokyo with French President Mitterrand, presidential counsellor David Gergen said Saturday.

"There has been some discussion... about the possibility of moving on the oil... or putting some greater financial pressures on the Libyans," Mr. Gergen told reporters. He said he would anticipate further conversations with France on this issue.

Security beefed up in Cairo after hangings

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police have deployed reinforcements around mosques and embassies in the Egyptian capital after the hanging of seven Islamic militants sparked threats of reprisal from the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group).

The group, which has spearheaded a campaign to overthrow the secular government, was the secular government, warned Thursday that President Hosni Mubarak was "digging his own grave" by executing the militants.

Mr. Mubarak was "providing good reason to kill him" by going ahead with the executions, a Gamaa communiqué said. His assassination would be a "legal act of justice and vengeance."

Security was beefed up around mosques and embassies in Cairo, notably the U.S. mission, where several police cars were parked.

Guards checked the bags of cinema and theatre-goers and similar precautions were taken at shopping centres across Cairo. Cars in parking lots of five-star hotels were searched.

The militants hanged Thursday were found guilty of plotting to overthrow the government and of an attack on a tour bus in the southern region of Qena in which six Germans and two Egyptians were wounded.

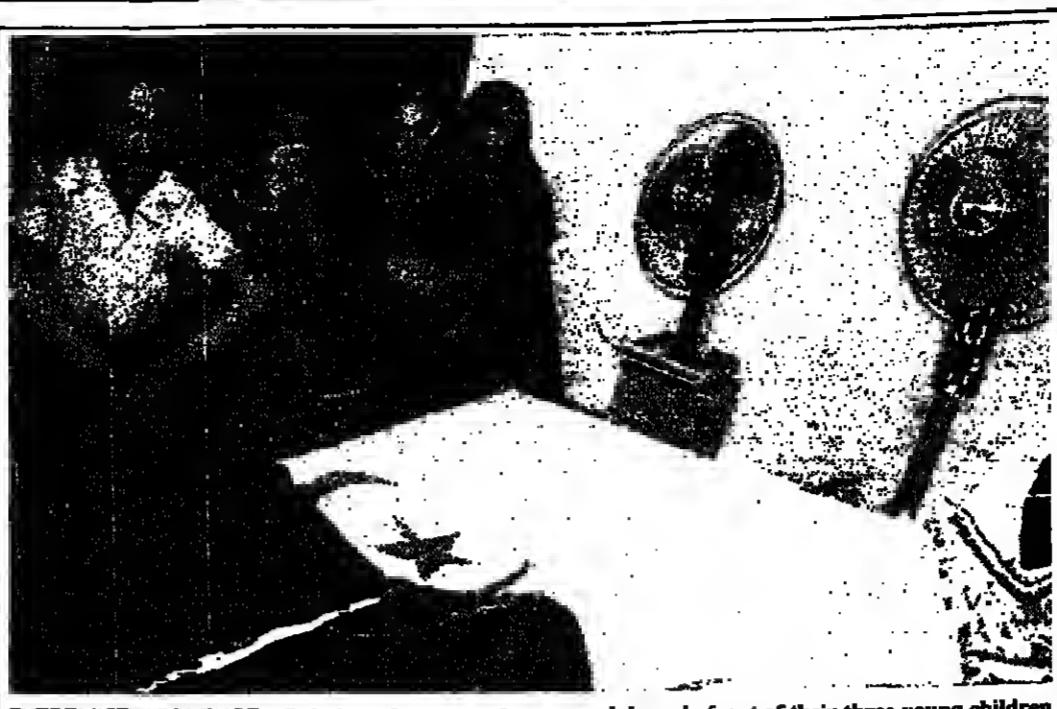
The Egyptian press applauded the hangings, saying they underlined the government's determination to crush a Muslim fundamentalist campaign that has killed around 170 people and crippled the vital tourism industry.

The executions, carried out without prior notice between 7 and 10 a.m. appeared to mark the largest group of persons executed for politically related crimes in Egypt's modern history.

The executions are clearly meant to persuade the Islamic Group, Egypt's most active underground Islamic movement, to halt its violent campaign to overthrow President Mubarak's secular government and install an Islamic state.

Two other militants were hanged last month, and 13 others sentenced to death at recent trials are likely to have their sentences carried out over the next two months, according to a report last week in the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper. Scores of other militants are on trial for capital offences.

Islamic Group supporters, however, said they regard the hangings as evidence of the government's weakness, and they warned that the executions will intensify their fight...



EXTREMIST VIOLENCE: Relatives keep watch Friday over the bodies of an agricultural engineer gunned down in front of their three young children in their isolated farm in the Boufarik region in the south of Algiers by suspected Islamic militants (AP photo).

Brotherhood opposes Mubarak reelection

CAIRO (Agencies) — The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood Saturday opposed a third presidential term for Hosni Mubarak, blaming him for an economic slump and growing Western influence on Egypt.

The Brotherhood is the first opposition group to come out openly against the president. While it is unlikely to affect Mr. Mubarak's expected reelection unopposed, it reflects public discontent over the economy.

Though officially banned, the Brotherhood still is allowed to operate. Like other Muslim groups, it demands implementation of Islamic law, but it has rejected the violent campaign by Islamic extremists to topple Mr. Mubarak's secular government.

In a written statement, Brotherhood leader Hamed Abu Nasr listed a string of problems that he claimed Mr. Mubarak failed to solve during 12 years in power — unemployment, high prices, growing Western influence, instability.

Mr. Abu Nasr did not specify, but the instability is due to the extremist campaign that has left more than 180 people dead in the past 18 months. The campaign also has badly damaged the economy by crippling tourism.

Mr. Mubarak, who came to power in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadar, has refused to say he will accept a third term but is widely expected to do so.

He blames many of his problems on the extremist campaign, which he says is supported by Iran and Sudan. He also argues, in reply to fundamentalists, that 90 per cent of Egyptian law already is based on the Sharia

Islamic code. The National Assembly, or parliament, is expected to convene July 21 to nominate Mr. Mubarak. Since opposition parties boycotted the last general elections, his National Democratic Party holds a majority in the 454-member assembly.

More than two-thirds of legislators already have signed a letter nominating Mr. Mubarak for a third term. That likely assures his reelection by referendum since no opponent can get the needed one-third parliamentary support to be nominated. He is expected to be sworn in for a third term before October.

Mr. Abu Nasr, whose group runs in parliamentary elections under the banner of the Socialist Labour Party, said the Brotherhood feels the electoral system is stacked in Mr. Mubarak's favour.

"We oppose the nomination of Mubarak for the presidency a third time, especially since the nomination comes from an assembly which we consider unconstitutional and not properly representative of the nation," Mr. Abu Nasr said in his statement.

He said that in 1987, when more than two-thirds also nominated Mr. Mubarak for reelection, opposition parties demanded the president implement Islamic law, change the electoral system and remove all restrictions on opposition political parties.

Mr. Abu Nasr said none of their demands had been met.

Cairo newspapers on Saturday quoted Parliament Speaker Fath Sorour as saying 441 out of 454 deputies signed a petition to put Mr. Mubarak's name forward in the parliamentary debate.

Rocket attacks kill 2, injures 25 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Rocket volleys slammed into residential areas of the Afghan capital, killing two people and injuring 25, state-run Kahlil Radio said.

At least 44 rockets fired from the southwest of the city, which is controlled by the minority Hez-e-Wahdat party, hit Kabul overnight and Friday, the radio monitored in Islamabad said.

Several houses and a mosque were destroyed, it said.

Missile ransom sought

The Afghan abductor of two Chinese hydrologists has demanded three Stinger missiles and payment of more than \$220,000 for their release, official sources said in Pakistani town of Quetta Saturday.

He has also demanded the release of his brother jailed in Pakistan for gun running and the return of other weapons seized by Pakistani troops in a raid on his camp earlier this year, they said.

The Chinese, identified as Weng Chin Ping and Zheng Hong Pao, were abducted from the Bostan district, in southwestern Baluchistan province, on June 21.

Mullah Abdul Salam, nicknamed "Mulla Rocketi," who belongs to the Hez-e-Islami faction of Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, conveyed his demands to an Afghan jirga (mediator team) which met him this week in the Afghan province of Zabul.

The abduction was to retaliate for Islamabad's alleged failure to pay the cost of his U.S.-supplied Stinger missiles as promised and their subsequent raid on his camp at Badin near here to recover the weapons.

Mullah Rocketi claimed that the Pakistani militia troops had also seized six million rupees (\$222,000) from his house, besides some light arms in their raid.

The shoulder-carried anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, costing \$20,000, were supplied to the Afghan guerrillas by the United States for use against the former pro-Soviet regime deposed after 14 years of war in April 1992.

Reports from Washington said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was now buying back the Stingers less they fall in the hands of anti-American countries, particularly Iran.

Mr. Salam is also holding hostage seven Pakistani government employees since last winter, saying he would also free them once his demands were met, the sources said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemeni and Bahraini labour ministers die

BAHRAIN (AP) — The labour ministers of Bahrain and Yemen died within a few hours of each other on opposite sides of the Arabian Peninsula, officials and news reports said Saturday. Sheikh Khalifa Ben Mohammad Al Khalifa, the Bahraini minister and a cousin of the emir's ruler, died early Saturday, the official Gulf News Agency said. The cause of death was not disclosed. Sources close to the family, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sheikh Khalifa died at his home in Manama. Sheikh Khalifa, who was 46, had been minister of labour since 1980. Yemen's labour minister, Mohammad Ali Haithem, died of heart failure Friday night at a hospital in Sanaa, officials in the Yemeni capital said. In 1989, Mr. Haithem was prime minister of South Yemen, which merged with North Yemen in 1990. He fled South Yemen when Marxists tightened their control. He was granted political asylum in Egypt, where he survived two assassination attempts by gunmen. Mr. Haithem, 53, had served only six weeks as Yemen's minister of labour, social affairs and insurance.

PLO students divided over Israeli contacts

TUNIS (R) — Divisions arose Saturday within the General Union of Palestinian Students over a meeting last month in Sweden between its leaders and the youth group of the Israeli Labour Party. Six of the 10 members of the Palestinian union's executive committee said in a statement they were opposed to the meeting. "It is a normalisation of relations with the institutions of (Israel) occupied... and a violation of the national consensus," they said in a statement.

7 killed in Sudanese attack on Kenyans

NAIROBI (R) — Seven people were killed when hundreds of Sudanese cattle raiders fought with villagers in northern Kenya, police said Saturday. More than 300 Sudanese armed with automatic weapons stormed the frequently troubled region on Friday and seized 1,000 head of cattle and 1,300 goats, a police statement said. In the ensuing fight with Kenya's Turkana villagers, four of the raiders and three local people were killed, it said. The government rushed police and the paramilitary general service unit to pursue the cattle thieves, thought to be from famine-stricken southern Sudan.

Iran, Ukraine sign transportation accords

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Ukraine have signed a series of agreements on road, sea and air transport, officials said Saturday. The agreement signed here on Friday between Iranian Transportation Minister Mohammad Saidi Kia and his Ukrainian counterpart, Kelim Pushch, would allow Iran access to Ukraine's road network which passes through Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Russia, to ease Iran's dependence on its western neighbour Turkey for links to Europe. Iran signed similar agreements with Azerbaijan and Russia in the past year.

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ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish Foreign Ministry has demanded compensation from Bern claiming Swiss authorities failed to protect their embassy during an attack by Kurds in which one person died, a Turkish diplomatic source said Saturday. A note delivered Friday to Swiss Ambassador Paul Andre Ramseier said the compensation was for "negligence by the Swiss authorities in failing to protect the Turkish embassy in Switzerland." One of the Kurds died in the attack as shots were fired from the embassy premises. The note followed a protest by Swiss authorities delivered Wednesday to the Turkish Ambassador in Bern Kaya Topcu, in which they criticised the shooting at the Kurds on June 24 and Ankara's lack of cooperation.

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Reports from Washington said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was now buying back the Stingers less they fall in the hands of anti-American countries, particularly Iran.

Mr. Salam is also holding hostage seven Pakistani government employees since last winter, saying he would also free them once his demands were met, the sources said.

The abduction was to retaliate for Islamabad's alleged failure to pay the cost of his U.S.-supplied Stinger missiles as promised and their subsequent raid on his camp at Badin near here to recover the weapons.

Mullah Rocketi claimed that the Pakistani militia troops had also seized six million rupees (\$222,000) from his house, besides some light arms in their raid.

Home News

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent offers condolences to Emir of Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifah, condoling him over the death of Bahraini Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Sheikh Khalifah Ben Salman Al Khalifah.

Princess Rania meets NHF director

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdulla Al Hussein Saturday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where she was familiarised with the foundation's projects and programmes in the fields of family planning, culture and education. Princess Rania had a meeting with NHF Director Inam Al Mufti and was briefed by her on the NHF role in supporting national development efforts. Her Royal Highness commended the role of the foundation and lauded its development projects.

Prince Ghazi visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad Saturday visited the Prime Ministry where he had a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Agriculture minister returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Friday returned home after attending the opening ceremony of the British Royal Agricultural Fair, which was inaugurated in Yorkshire July 5. Dr. Kamal met during his stay in the United Kingdom with British Agriculture Secretary and several foreign officials attending the opening ceremony of the fair and discussed with them means of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and their countries in agricultural fields.

Amman to host conference on Arabic music

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of 13 Arab countries will gather in Amman next Saturday to attend the works of the 12th Arabic Music Academy (AMA) conference. AMA Secretary General Munir Bashir said Saturday. At a press conference held in Amman, Mr. Bashir said delegates from Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen and Oman will participate in the three-day conference, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). He said the participants will discuss several issues on Arabic music affairs, means of developing Arabic music and encouraging music production in the Arab World. At the meetings, organised by the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ), the participants will elect a new presidency and general secretariat for the AMA. Mr. Bashir said. He added that the general secretariat will present at the meetings a proposal on establishing a centre for bedouin music tradition in Jordan. Mr. Bashir explained that the Baghdad-based AMA, which was established in 1971, is an Arab League agency which includes all Arab states as members. The academy, he said, includes five main committees on musical education, traditional musical heritage, popular arts, musical production and historical studies. The AMA also cooperates with Arab and international organisations concerned with music activities such as the Arab Radio Stations League, the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Council of Music. The AMA's 11th conference was held in 1989 at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris. NMC Director Kifah Fakhouri commended the good relations between NMC and AMA, saying the conservatory in 1990 helped the AMA to organise an Arab Music parley, that, she said, encouraged AMA officials to hold their conference in Amman.

Omani, Jordanian TV officials discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Sultanate of Oman Television Khamis Ben Ahmad Al Mousa Saturday met with several officials from the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation and the Jordan Radio and Television Production Company. Mr. Mousa discussed with the Jordanian officials the prospects of sending several Jordanian technicians to work in the Omani Ministry of Health's television production unit. Mr. Khamis arrived in Amman Thursday accompanied by Director General of the Omani Ministry of Health's Personnel Affairs Department Yousef Al Mujanni.

Jordan, European bank to discuss water projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the ministries of Planning and Water will Sunday leave for Luxembourg to hold talks with officials from the European Investment Bank on technical issues related to two water projects carried out in the Balqa governorate through financial help from the bank. Othman Al Kurdi of the Ministry of Water said the Jordanian delegation will present to the bank designs, tender documents, feasibility studies and other papers on the JD 17 million projects.

50 poultry shops closed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Municipality has last week ordered the closure of 50 poultry shops for violations of health and public safety regulations. The closure orders come in the wake of an all-out campaign launched against violations of laws by shops selling and slaughtering live poultry. The municipality urged citizens not to buy poultry slaughtered outside Amman's slaughterhouses on the grounds that shops selling fresh poultry meat lack the needed veterinary facilities.

416 Jordanians employed through Aqaba labour office

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Labour and Employment Department has collected JD 112,000 in revenues during the past six months. Department Director Jamal Abu Tayeh said Saturday. Mr. Abu Tayeh said during the same period the department has granted 975 work permits and retrieved 153 expired permits. He said a total of 456 Jordanian job seekers have contacted the department since the beginning of the year, adding that 416 of them were employed since then.

QAF begins vocational training course

IRBD (Petra) — A course in manufacturing puppets and stuffed toys started Saturday at the Princess Basma Social Services Centre of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). Centre Director Nahid Al Rousan said 15 female trainees from various social development centres are participating in the course, which aims at acquainting them with new skills. The course, he said, is considered as a good chance for dressmaking trainees and women to produce toys of good quality. The course will last for two weeks.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian plastic artist Marwan Al Allan at the Jordanian Writers Association.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshbeilia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Noelle Shawwa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by Zuheira Zaqtan at Baladna Art Gallery.

Princess Sarvath urges efforts to allow Bosnian refugees access to universities

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassa Saturday urged the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) and other concerned departments to work towards allowing Bosnian refugees in Jordan to enter Jordanian universities and community colleges.

Speaking during her visit to the Bosnian residential centre, Princess Sarvath said that efforts should also be directed towards helping the Bosnian families to carry out social and recreational activities at their premises and elsewhere in Jordan. The princess later toured the Khatibah Bint Al Alzwar school for girls where the Bosnian children are taking lessons in Bosnian language at the hands of Jordanian students who had studied in former Yugoslavia and Bosnian teachers living in Jordan.

Princess Sarvath's visit came on the heels of a meeting she held at the Bosnian Centre last week with representatives of non-government organisations operating in Jordan. The meeting was attended by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the U.N. Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organisation for Migration, the Middle East Council of Churches, CARE International and Save the Children's Fund.

Representatives of these organisations voiced appreciation for Jordan's efforts to help the Bosnian refugees and pledged support with donations of cash and other means.

Seminar warns against environmental pollution in refugee camps

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Saturday opened a seminar on health work and sanitation in Palestinian refugee camps with a call for the protection of the environment.

"There has been an increasing damage to the environment to an extent that one can only think of appointing special guards to provide protection to the environment and prevent pollution," said the health minister in an address at the opening session.

Health and sanitary conditions in refugee camps, especially in the Gaza Strip, is deteriorating and environmental pollution is at its worst, said Dr. Arrabi.

He said these conditions pose a real danger to human life in the camps.

Dr. Arrabi said that the refugee camps in the occupied Arab lands lack sewerage systems and this is a cause of real concern to WHO and other concerned authorities.

Dr. Arrabi blamed the Israeli authorities for refusing to build sewerage systems in certain areas which prompts the local residents to dump the waste in the open sea, which in turn causes marine pollution.

WHO representative Hassan Al Baroudi told the meeting that the seminar was an attempt to familiarise the participants with better means of guarding against environmental pollution.

Participants in the two-week seminar will be discussing health and sanitary requirements and means of controlling the spread of rodents and insects among other important issues.

Dr. Malhas said that the ministry is now preparing its case for the judicial system and the

Jordan, Australia to adjust trade balance

AMMAN (Petra) — Western Australia is willing to develop its relations with Jordan, increase the volume of trade with the Kingdom and launch joint investment projects in various fields, visiting Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries in Western Australia Monty House said Saturday.

Saying that his country would be willing to benefit from Jordanian expertise in free zones affairs, Mr. House said that Australia and Jordan can carry out joint food processing industries and other schemes based on Jordanian phosphate and potash, said Mr. House at a meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket.

Stressing the need for Jordan and Australia to diversify their trade exchange Mr. House said that his country was keen on importing more of Jordanian phosphate and potash in a bid to adjust the balance of trades which is in favour of Australia.

He said this can be facilitated through the exchange of visits by businessmen from the two countries.

Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said that last year Jordan imported JD 9 million worth of products from Australia and exported it JD 256,000 worth of Jordanian goods, mainly phosphate and potash imports.

Dr. Saket emphasised the need for Australia and Jordan to launch joint investment projects, especially in food and phosphate based industries, urging Australia to buy Jordanian pharmaceutical products in addition to increasing



Jordanian and Australian officials Saturday held talks on means of enhancing trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Jordanian side of the talks was headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket (fourth from left) while Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries in Western Australia Monty House (fifth from left) headed the Australian side. (Petra photo)

its phosphate and potash imports.

Dr. Saket suggested a barrier system for exchanging Jordanian and Australian goods saying that Jordan was interested in purchasing wheat in addition to live sheep and meat.

The minister also offered the Jordanian free zones a venue for the joint Australian-Jordanian investment schemes which, he said, can sell their products to neighbouring states.

He also suggested the organisation

of a Jordanian trade fair in Australia to orient the public there with the Kingdom's products.

The outcome of discussions was conveyed to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali who voiced Jordan's keenness on promoting its relations with Australia and increasing trade with it.

Mr. House, who is due to conclude his talks in Jordan Sunday by signing a memorandum of

understanding, earlier met with Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal. The two discussed Jordan's imports of Australian live sheep. Dr. Kamal briefed the guest on Jordan's efforts to promote agriculture in the Jordan Valley and the region's fruit and vegetable exports to world markets.

Mr. House, met also with Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz who briefed the Australian minister on Jordan's economic reform.

Children to be covered by mothers' health insurance

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health is preparing to change its health insurance programme to allow women employees of the government to cover their children and other dependents under certain circumstances, according to Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas. Until now, this had only been allowed to male employees although the monthly premium is the same for both men and women (2% of the employee's salary).

Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the Jordanian Women's Union, herself a government employee in the Ministry of Health, had written a public letter on this issue to Dr. Malhas in Al Ra'i Arabic daily and then met with him personally.

Ms. Abu Ghazaleh said that she and Dr. Malhas had different in their meeting on how many families are excluded from the ministry's health insurance coverage because a woman government employee is the only holder of a health insurance policy in the family.

Dr. Malhas, she stated, believed that this occurs infrequently, but she believes that at least 50,000 women and their families fall into this category.

Dr. Malhas said that under the changes he proposed, a woman's health insurance would cover children who are under 18 years of age if the father holds no insurance policy, parents or siblings if the woman is not married and they depend on her financially, and the husband himself if he is handicapped, disabled or unable to work.

He said that he did not want to negate the role of the man as the

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh

main supporter of the family, but he also did not want families losing medical coverage if the man did not hold any insurance policy.

"We find this very logical," he said in reference to modifying the insurance programme, "not necessarily just because we want to change the law to support women for the sake of supporting women, but because there are so many illogical laws governing women's activities, more than any that cover men's activities," he said.

One women's rights activist, Huda Fakhouri, strongly criticised Ms. Abu Ghazaleh's public letter to the minister of health. In the June 24 edition of Al Ra'i, Ms. Fakhouri said that Ms. Abu Ghazaleh had used an apologetic and pleading tone in her letter when she should have stood up and demanded what is women's unquestionable right. Ms. Abu Ghazaleh had represented

women poorly, she said.

"We are not begging for our rights," said Ms. Abu Ghazaleh. "We will discuss this first — there is no need to open a war with people the first time they come into office."

Ms. Fakhouri told the Jordan Times that besides her disagreement with Ms. Abu Ghazaleh's letter, there are other things that concerned her in regard to the women's rights movement in Jordan. "... Women have not organised themselves properly to form a force which is capable of wielding any real pressure (they) get excited about a certain issue for a limited duration of time and write about it, yet they have not, as yet, been able to actually have any effect on responsible persons ..." she said.

"The need is for a change in the way women view themselves," she added, "so that they come to believe in themselves as capable of leadership."

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جريدة توبير العربية مطبوعة ملئية باللغة العربية.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faxsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Worship above politics

ON THURSDAY, the minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs urged mosque preachers to remain neutral as far as politics is concerned and to limit their sermons to explaining Islam to worshippers. Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi told preachers that they should not take sides with political factions and should promote dialogue among all people and groups in society. The minister was stressing the role of the mosque as a meeting place for all Muslims of different shades of opinion. The clear message was that, in an era of democracy and political pluralism, and in an age of uncertainty and search for identity and solutions to earthly problems, the mosque should play a more constructive role in advocating peaceful debate and tolerance among all citizens of this country.

But Thursday quickly gave way to Friday, on which day the list of mosque preachers in Amman showed that at least half a dozen were leading political figures, mainly Islamist deputies. One of course does not expect non-Islamists to preach at our mosques, but the hope has always been that no single party, least of all political, should have an edge over other parties at houses of worship.

There have been complaints recently that mosque preachers and speakers have used the pulpit to attack or demean certain political parties or groups. This places the mosque, the most frequented place, on one side of the political spectrum extending support to one side and withholding it from other Muslims. Minister Abbadi was conspicuously less explicit on this point but he still warned that "the sanctity of the mosques should not be harmed by any one or used to serve any personal or factional goals."

Now that elections have been set for November this year, the campaign which will start in earnest, cannot, by law, be conducted in houses of worship, be they mosques or churches. Words uttered in those places have to not only cleanse our souls of earthly matters and petty rivalries. They have to encourage leaving politics to be practised by politicians in political houses and arenas.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of the state to ensure that the message that emanates from the mosque is pious, wise and tolerant. Especially at this crucial time in our history, mosques and churches should not serve to favour one political faction over the other or take sides. Hence politicians and political activists should not be allowed to make use of the fact that they can reach the pulpit and others cannot. Minister Abbadi needs to do more than preach to preachers; he should make sure that the list of preachers that his ministry releases every Friday does not include politicians of any sort. This would leave places of worship free from electioneering and guarantee that politicians are seen as such and operating within their proper and legal context in society.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPITE REPEATED pledges by the U.S. administration that it would play the role of full and active partner in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, nothing has been achieved during the 10th round where the Americans failed to live up to expectations, said Al Ra's daily Saturday. Indeed, Washington played a biased role towards Israel rather than playing a neutral role with the purpose of helping the two sides to achieve, a just peace, said the paper. Furthermore, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement Friday that his country was determined to remove the points of differences between the two sides is regarded as a warning from the Clinton administration to the Arabs to accept Israel's terms for a settlement, continued the paper. It said that the Palestinians are the party concerned here because they have been demanding that Jerusalem be placed on the agenda, a demand totally opposed by the Israeli government which has been responsible for the failure of the peace talks so far. The Americans, who are making these statements now are also responsible for the failure of the talks because they failed to honour their own commitment and also failed to pinpoint the party responsible for the failure, proving to the world that Israel's intransigence is the stumbling block in the path of peace, added the paper. The American document presented to the Palestinians adopted the Israeli views, disregarded the question of Jerusalem and overlooked the question of Jewish settlements, said the daily. It said the Palestinians and the Arabs have the full right to demand a clear American stand vis-a-vis the talks before agreeing to take part in further sessions.

COMMENTING ON a visit to Israel by U.S. peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross, Sawt Al Shaab daily said Saturday that the talks ended in deadlock due to Israel's intransigent position, and so the Ross mission has failed before the envoy started his tour of Arab capitals. The daily said that Israel has proven again and again that it refuses to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 224 and 338 which call for Israeli withdrawal from lands occupied since 1967, including the Arab part of Jerusalem. The Israelis have approved the American document, submitted to the Palestinians and the Israelis, concerning the autonomy rule for the Palestinians simply because it overlooked the status of Jerusalem, said the daily. It added that the American envoy has failed in his mission probably because he tried to make Israel budge from its present position and meet the Palestinians halfway. The paper said that Mr. Ross will now tour Cairo, Damascus and Amman to sound out their position with regard to the continuation of peace talks, but we believe that the big gap between the Arabs and the Israelis would prevent such continuation. The paper said that the Arab parties to the peace talks with Israel which plan to hold a meeting, following Mr. Ross's tour to assess the situation, should cling to their coordination and their collective demands that peace should be comprehensive on all tracks and based on the exchange of land for peace. It said these are the principles on which the U.N. resolutions were based.

Tahar Ben Jelloun, a Moroccan who has lived in Paris the past two decades, is the author of seven novels and four volumes of poetry. Winner of the 1987 Prix Goncourt, his works have been translated into 25 languages. Following are excerpts of an interview conducted last week in Rome with Newsweek's Ken Shulman:

Question: Emigration, immigration and racism have always been central themes in your novels. Answer: I am obliged to deal with these themes, as they are part of the landscape of Europe and northern Africa. Northern Africa is a land of emigration. And France is a land of immigration.

Q: Not for much longer, at least according to recent statements made by French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

A: Charles Pasqua is trying to appease the extreme right, to take advantage of the ignorance and prejudices of a certain sector of the French electorate that has made a connection between immigration and fear among the French. This is a total inversion of the situation. The truth is that it is the immigrants who are afraid.

A: It is, but there are also several differences. German society in the '30s was much more frag-

Development can stop immigration

violence. The fear the French feel is imaginary, chimerical. Pasqua's demagoguery is merely an attempt to show the extreme right that the government is capable of taking a strong position.

Q: Why is the extreme right and the National Front so popular in France?

A: Any time there is a crisis, the people need to find a culprit. And this time the finger has been pointed at the immigrants, even though economists have demonstrated that immigration has nothing to do with the country's economic woes. Those are caused by the evolution of society, by modernity, by technology. by having to compete in an international market. Yet these concepts are hard to understand, and even harder to explain: it is much easier to tell an unemployed person that he has lost his job on account of an Arab. And this is not only on the extreme right. By now, the equation immigration-equals-unemployment-equals-crisis has been so widely repeated that people all across the political spectrum begin to believe it.

Q: The situation, as you describe it, is similar to that of Germany in the 1930s.

A: It is, but there are also several differences. German society in the '30s was much more frag-

mented than that of France today. It was still reeling from defeat in World War I, and there was nothing to stem the tide of racism once it began to swell. Today there are anti-racist associations and groups like Amnesty International that offer resistance to mass movements of racism. There was no resistance in the

France. Germany has no historic relationship with Turkey, while France has a long and tumultuous one with Algeria. In Germany, the extreme right movements are opposed to foreigners in general. This is a more classic form of racism. In France, there are still memories of Algeria as a French colony. Many of the people who

you'll find a large percentage of names that are not French.

Q: The immigrant families you describe in your fiction often suffer from a lack of cultural identity.

A: It is quite simple. Immigration is obviously a consequence of colonialism. The development of France was accomplished thanks to the sweat and labour of immigrants. What people tend to forget

"It is inevitable that the immigrant loses his roots. Most of them are poor, illiterate people who come from remote villages in Morocco or Algeria or Tunisia. They arrive in a western society with television, cinema, advertising, and they are totally lost. The situation is even more dramatic for their children who are born in

France. Their parents are people who have been denied of everything, even of their history. They have no stories to tell, no books to recommend, nothing they can offer to counter the onslaught of French culture. Their children end up knowing if they're Moroccan or French or something in between."

Q: Is there an alternative to immigration?

A: Development. If a country develops, it will no longer need to send its men abroad to work. It may not be in Europe's interest in the short run, but in the long run promoting development would be a good investment. Europe needs north Africa, just as it needs the southern Mediterranean. And it needs (them) now.



Out of balance

By Yosef Ben Aharon

The writer, a former director-general of the prime minister's office, headed Israel's negotiating team with Syria from the Madrid peace talks through June 1992. The following article is reprinted from the *Jerusalem Post*.

THE LATEST American document, which aims to bridge over the differences between Israel and the Palestinians, bears the distinct imprint of Dennis Ross and his close associates, Dan Kurtzer and Aaron Miller.

It is supposed to project a balanced approach, that takes both sides' views into consideration, ostensibly incorporating some "constructive ambiguity."

In fact, it is a blatantly one-sided document that satisfies many of the major Palestinian demands at the expense of vital Israeli interests.

I hasten to stress that one should not lay the blame for this turn of events at the doorstep of Dennis Ross and his colleagues. Primary responsibility for the contents of this document lies with our government which has hastened to make one-sided concessions throughout the last five rounds of negotiations, and was rewarded by deadlocks and ever-growing demands from the Palestinians.

It is the Israeli government that agreed to the inclusion of a Jerusalem Arab in the Palestinian delegation. It also agreed to the participation of a PLO member in the multilateral talks. It informed the Palestinians that the areas of Judea, Samaria (Israeli given names to the West Bank) and Gaza will be treated as one territorial unit, thus burying finally the Labour Party's commitment to "territorial concessions" in its political platform.

In addition, it accepted the concept of "interlock" between the interim stage talks and the permanent status negotiations, thus undermining the importance of the interim stage as a testing period of coexistence and cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians.

All these concessions run counter to the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords and the Madrid formula.

Furthermore, our government abolished the law banning meetings with PLO functionaries, while some of its ministers are openly calling on Rabin to meet with Yasser Arafat. Other ministers are intimating that they would not be averse to concessions even on Jerusalem if that were the last obstacle to an agreement.

Against this background, it is not surprising that the American "bridging" proposal takes us considerably closer to the ultimate Palestinian state over all of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, probably under the control of the PLO, which would also wield some authority over Jerusalem.

It has totally eroded the original concept of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian

side is treated on a par with Israel, in effect representing a sovereign entity in the making.

For the first time, Israel will be

formally agreeing to the inclusion of Jerusalem on the agenda of the permanent status negotiations.

Contrary to the position of all previous Israeli governments, the Palestinian self-government body will be invested with legislative, in addition to executive, powers. Both elements do not appear in the Camp David accords or in the Madrid formula, which were designed to provide the Palestinian body with administrative powers only.

"The latest American document is supposed to project a balanced approach, that takes both sides' views into consideration, ostensibly incorporating some 'constructive ambiguity.' In fact, it is a blatantly one-sided document that satisfies many of the major Palestinian demands at the expense of vital Israeli interests."

In all previous rounds of negotiations from Camp David on, it was understood that the residual authority, as well as responsibility for overall security of the areas in question, would remain in Israeli hands. In Camp David, the Palestinian police force was intended to "assist in providing... security." In the American document, however, there is no provision for the retention of the residual authority by Israel.

As for the critical issue of security, the document says: "The Israelis and the Palestinians agree that the security of both sides will be respected and strengthened through the negotiation process." In other words, Israel and the Palestinians are placed on an equal footing even with regard to security.

In sum, the latest American document, which purports to represent a set of principles agreed to by Israel and the Palestinians, is nothing short of a stepping-stone to an independent Palestinian state over all of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, probably under the control of the PLO, the most expensive real estate, and many of the wealthiest corporations.

To that can be added some matters of national security: an extremely low rate of violent crime, high public health standards and low unemployment.

Despite cozy ties with establishment politicians, many executives have welcomed the possibility that the upheaval in the governing Liberal Democratic Party will result in new policies.

Mr. Miyazawa lost a confidence vote in parliament on June 18, leaving Japan with a lame duck government.

Since then, 56 lawmakers have defected from the scandal-tainted Liberal Democrats, raising the possibility that the party will be forced out of power for the first time since it was founded 38 years ago.

Whether that will happen depends on how willing the deeply conservative Japanese are to accept changes they have put off for years. The Liberal Democrats still are given credit for presiding over the seemingly miraculous progress from defeat and destruction to the world's second largest economy.

By some measures, Japan is the most affluent of nations. It has the highest per capita income (\$23,801 in 1990) and savings (\$45.118), the world's richest business man: railroad magnate Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, at \$9 billion, the most expensive real estate, and many of the wealthiest corporations.

"In my opinion, the seeds of Japan's downfall lie in what, until now, has been the secret of its success: immense bureaucratic influence," said Kazuo Inamori, chairman of the high-tech Kyocera Corp.

Japanese question the miracle and its makers

By Elaine Kurtenbach

The Associated Press

TOKYO — After World War II, the Japanese gave up believing their emperor was a god and transferred their faith to the economy, a benevolent deity that offered security and a better life as rewards for devotion.

Now, with Japan's industrial competitiveness dulled and the political leadership in shambles, faith in the economic miracle and the institutions that fashioned it appears to be waning.

The defeat of Prime Minister Kichi Miyazawa's administration by western standards, have led to worry that the Japanese economy may be subject to stagnation as those of the West.

"Japanese businessmen used to pride themselves on having a first-rate economy even though their political system was third-rate, but they have subsequently seen how fragile even the economy really is," said Ryuzo Sato, a commentator for the newspaper Yomiuri.

Some economists believe the orgy of investment and consumer spending in the boom 1980s was an aberration that may never recur.

Others, such as Kenneth S. Curtis, a senior economist of Deutsche Bank, believe the current slowdown is just a breather.

Scandal upon scandal has revealed mismanagement that gnawed at the economy's financial foundations and helped push Japan into its worst recession in two decades.

Painful belt-tightening by corporations has shaken faith in the Japanese way of doing business, leading even its most successful proponents to demand changes.

"The formula for Japan's economic success, effective and appropriate in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, can no longer be accepted or defended," said Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp. Other business leaders have made similar comments.

Despite cozy ties with establishment politicians, many executives have welcomed the possibility that the upheaval in the governing Liberal Democratic Party will result in new policies.

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declare themselves to be anti-immigrants are actually anti-Algerian. Asians and blacks are more widely accepted in France. In both countries, the violence stems from ignorance and from a lack of information. Today's leaders have not done their history homework. The only thing they think about is how to remain in power.

is that the French arrived in northern Africa with their trucks and went to villages looking for labour. These men were brought back to France to work, and when there was a shortage of soldiers on the front, they put these immigrants into uniform. This is something the French don't know. But if you look through military cemeteries to

LETTERS

SOS again from troubled waters

To the Editor:

With reference to the letter titled "The ebb and tides of a ship" that appeared in the July 5 issue of the Jordan Times, we, the captain and crewmembers of the vessel referred to in the letter, would like to clarify the following:

1. We have no quarrel or legal battle with the Ports Corporation. Our claims in salaries were from the owners of the ship, Ibn Majed, and we already have won three consecutive cases in an Aqaba court which had ordered that our claims be settled from the proceeds of the ship's sale.
2. We, the crew, are in no way responsible for the actions of the shipowners, charterer or the agents. The ownership claims of the vessels and the episode of changing names and registration cited in the letter do not involve or concern us simply because we are paid employees who obey the orders of the owner, charterer or agent who represents the owner and charterer at every port of call the ship makes. Nor did we stand to gain anything from whatever commercial manoeuvres anyone of them adopted.
3. The ship was auctioned on Jan. 17, 1993, for a sum of JD 126,000. The claims of the Captain and 10 crewmembers of the ship until Jan. 15 amount to \$88,945, plus our air passage home

Man, nature threaten Cairo's history

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO.—The ravages of man and the rumbles of nature are threatening the minarets, domes, arches and towers of Islam that have dominated Cairo's skyline for 1,000 years.

The peril was accelerated by a killer earthquake that damaged almost 200 Islamic monuments in Cairo last October.

Alarmed by the crisis, experts from the United States, Europe, Asia and Egypt—including U.S. specialists in protecting historic buildings against earthquake damage—gathered last month to explore ways to save the city's historic areas.

The key is to pinpoint a building's weak areas and determine how to strengthen them. But the U.S. National Park Service's David Lusk of San Francisco, said scientists can take months to identify a weakness, while "an earthquake finds it in seconds."

Miguel Angel Corzo, director of the J. Paul Getty Conservation Institute of Marina Del Rey, Calif., said scientists at his institute use mockups of historical buildings on "shake tables" to study seismic activity.

"We're trying to find ways to safeguard monuments beforehand, to keep them standing, rather than fix them when they fall down," Mr. Corzo said.

He said Islamic architecture seems little known or appreciated by much of the world, despite its beauty and creativity.

Safeguarding Cairo's Islamic heritage has never received top priority among Egyptian officials. Medieval monuments largely have disappeared in Europe and the Middle East. But Cairo contains the world's largest collection.

Engineer James Wight of the University of Michigan, a specialist in seismic threats to historic buildings, surveyed many monuments soon after last October's earthquake.

He said problems arose more from neglect than from quake damage.

"The earthquake was like a 'surgeon,'" he said. "The monuments started to deteriorate, and were allowed to deteriorate."

And Ibrahim Bakr, Egypt's antiquities chairman, opened the four-day conference with the admission that emergency work done after the earthquake was "insufficient."

"We are doing all what we can, but at best we can do little," he said. "Sometimes we are working day and night. It's the least we can do to say we are doing something for the next generation."

The Egyptian Antiquities Organisation sponsored the conference with the Getty Institute and the American Research Centre in Egypt, which oversees U.S. academic and archaeological projects.

Before the quake, the antiquities organisation employed 30 engineers and architects repairing 50 Islamic monuments yearly. The earthquake damaged 198, with scores needing immediate repair.

Several different organisations have plans to fix most of the damaged structures, but 26 still have nobody to repair them.

Emergency work has left some of the city's most historic buildings in scaffolding. Metal supports support portions of certain monuments.

Patchwork restoration has left parts of buildings in a precarious state. Stone decorations, beautifully painted ceilings and inlaid archways are poised to collapse. The rumble of passing traffic could do it. Or another earthquake. Periodic quakes in the past have wrought major destruction.

The one thing that's certain is that, sometime in the future, Cairo will have another earthquake," said David Sykora of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "It's possible Cairo has yet to feel its most dangerous quake."

Last year's tremor was centred a few kilometres south of Cairo and registered 5.9 on the Richter scale, which measures ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Sykora said Egyptian specialists have little scientific data about that earthquake or others in Egypt's long history.

But they say weak soil in most of Cairo's historic zones leaves the monuments vulnerable.

And sewage water from leaky pipes or lack of pipes has been eating away at the monuments for years. The old city's first sewage system is not scheduled for completion until 1995.

Forty years ago, Cairo boasted 622 Islamic monuments. Today there are 560, though one would be hard-pressed to locate some of them. Most are nestled within medieval Cairo's congested, narrow alleyways, battered by pollution and noise from small factories and passing vehicles, their underpinnings threatened by construction of high-rise buildings.

Mapping path to heart of cell

Unveiling growth signals may help treat cancers

By Natalie Angier

NEW YORK—With a splendid convergence of discoveries from a broad range of disciplines, biologists at last have sketched out the crucial events that tell a cell it is time to divide. They have traced the pilgrimage of a biochemical signal from the moment it impinges on the delicate skin of the cell, through to its arrival in the cell's deep nuclear soul, where the directive to multiply can be fulfilled.

In understanding this essential pathway of life after a quest of 13 years, molecular biologists are now gazing upon a fundamental revelation into how the body grows.

"There is more known now about the ras pathway by far than about any other pathway in the cell," said Dr. Michael Wigler of Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbour, New York, an early pioneer in the study of the ras gene. "There has been a great advantage in having so many people studying the problem, because there are things that come out in the details that are precious."

Indeed, the details are the breath and blood of the story. It is one thing to know in fuzzy outline what happens to make a cell divide; it is quite another to know which proteins comport with which and in what order to carry out the task.

"There are still gaps in our understanding, and a few links are still obscure," said Dr. Robert A. Weinberg of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "But I did manage to draw all this up in one glorious wiring diagram recently and present it at a talk."

The wiring of the cell, he said, "is no longer any more inaccessible to study than the wiring of a transistor radio."

And while much of the latest work focuses on a basic understanding of the ras communications system, two papers published in the current issue of the journal *Science* suggest the work may be swiftly translated into real

cancer therapies.

In the reports, researchers announced that, in test-tube results, they were able to block a step necessary for the ras protein to convey a cancerous signal to the nucleus. Using small synthetic peptides or drugs, distantly related to Valium, the scientists prevented the ras protein from finding its proper niche just inside the membrane of the cell, a positioning essential if ras is to operate as the mastermind of a signaling cascade.

And while the drugs can also interfere mildly with the performance of the protein in healthy cells, for a variety of reasons the inhibitory effect is vastly amplified in cancer cells, depriving them of the power to divide lawlessly and returning them to a seemingly normal state.

In their ability to home in on a specific part of a signaling pathway in cells, rather than merely attacking and killing anything that divides, as standard chemotherapy drugs do, the new compounds approach the silver bullet method of which biologists and doctors have long dreamed.

The new therapeutics will not be ready for human trials for two to three years, said Allen Oliff, the executive director for cancer research at Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, Pennsylvania, and the preliminary observations may never come to anything. Nevertheless, he said, "I'm an oncologist, and from my viewpoint it's the most exciting thing I've seen in the last 15 years."

Dr. Oliff and a colleague, Dr. Jackson B. Gibbs, led the team responsible for one of the two science reports. The latter study came from a collaboration between the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas and Genentech Inc. in South San Francisco. Researchers elsewhere are seeking diffe-

rency of a rat sarcoma, or connective-tissue cancer.

Biologists discovered that the only difference between a robust version of ras that's vital to life, and the malevolent version that helps cause cancer, is a single subunit, or base pair, out of many thousands of base pairs that make up the gene.

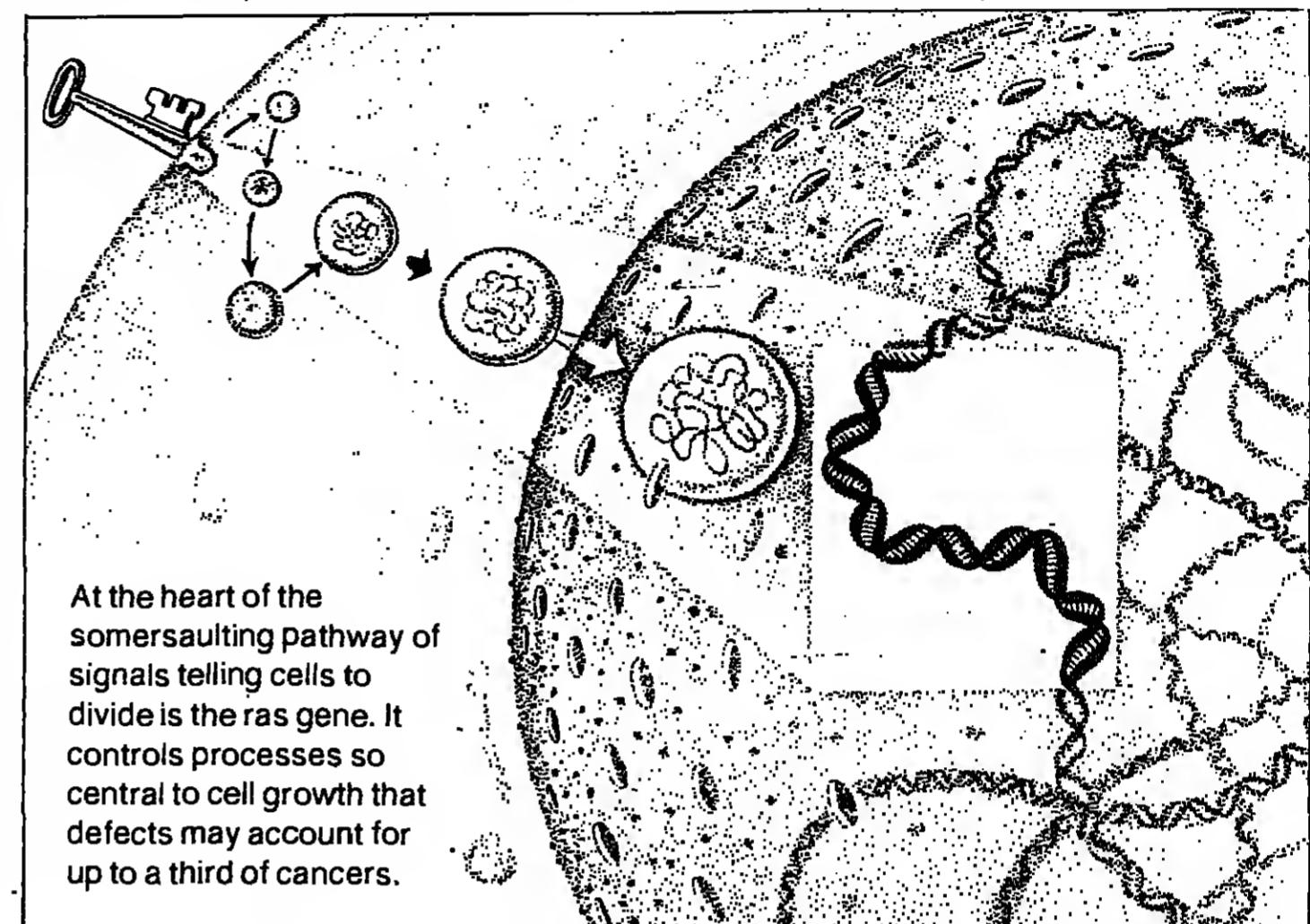
Normally, when the ras protein

is in an inactive state, it clasps a small molecule called GDP. Upon being elbowed into action by a stimulant like a growth factor, the protein tosses away the GDP and picks up a more active molecule called GTP from the cell's own cache, an exchange that allows the ras protein to pass its excitatory message along towards the nucleus.

Once its transmission chore is

through, the ras protein obliging

ly switches itself off, using a bit of its own enzymatic machinery to transform the active GTP into the more sedate molecule, GDP. The point mutation destroys this act of self-control, leaving ras always gripping GTP and thus in an incessantly stimulated condition — whether an external signal to grow is there or not — International Herald Tribune.



Memories are made of a million million connections

By Steve Connor

THE MAKING OF MEMORY

By Steven Rose
Bantam Press £16.99

As Steven Rose, author of *The Making of Memory* (Bantam Press), this year's winner of the Science Book Prize, says: "No memory within a computer could survive such a complete turnover of all the machine's constituent parts. Somehow, just as the shapes of our bodies persist despite the ceaseless ebb and flow of their molecular components, so do our memories, embedded in the structure and processes of the brain."

Professor Rose, a neurobiologist at the Open University, has spent most of his professional life trying to understand how the brain remembers. He works on the brains of new-born chicks, who at a few days old can be trained simple memory tasks, such as learning to avoid coloured beads from the memory of having once pecked at one soaked in a bitter substance.

Sophisticated instruments that can detect minute amounts of substances in the chicks' brains help him to compare a chick with a certain memory of an event with one that has no such mem-

ories. The results are fascinating. It appears from his work that

"The truth, no doubt, will prove more complex than this. The power of the human brain remains one of the greatest achievements of natural selection. The molecules of the brain, like those in the rest of our body, are changed completely many times over during our lifetime. The connections between nerve cells are broken and replaced perhaps thousands or millions of times. And yet our memories remain, we hope, intact."

Scientists now believe in a "connectionist" view of the brain, where the millions upon millions of nerve cells act as a vast network or grid. Professor Rose and his colleagues suggest that sensations, from bitter-tasting substance to the death of a loved one, stimulate electrical activity in nerve cells that trigger new connections to sprout between

the cells. This constant rewiring of the brain, and the need to keep it primed for electrical activity, could account for why it is such an energy-hungry organ. Could the new connections also be the physical manifestation of memory?

The truth, no doubt, will prove more complex than this. The power of the human brain remains one of the greatest achievements of natural selection. Each of us can, for instance, recognise up to 10,000 human faces — one Roman general, Publius Scipio, was said to be able to put names to his entire army of 35,000 men.

But most of us are not Scipio-like. Somehow the brain carefully filters out the important things in life for long-term storage. The trivia gets weeded out, or so we

hope. (How many times has an idiotic tune haunted you for days on end?)

For all its importance, the brain remains an enigma. We know it consists of about ten thousand million nerve cells and there are ten million million

membrane in a pictorial form. This is lost in older life. A 30-year-old man has memories of being a 10-year-old child that are quite different from the way a 50-year-old man remembers being 30 — even though the time difference is the same.

We thus return to the brain as a filter of perceptions. Adults use their brains as much to get rid of experiences as to remember them. Whether we will ever really understand how it does this will remain conjecture for some time to come.

Professor Rose believes we should eventually learn the secrets of our own minds, but only by first looking at simpler forms of life. "In researching my chicks' memories, I can begin to make sense of my own," he writes — "eideitically", meaning they re-

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The Amman Bank for Investments (ABI) has recently signed a licensing Agreement with ACT Kindle, the internationally Known software development firm, whereby ABI will acquire Kindle's Bank Master and Branch Power software systems in addition to other more specialized systems that would provide ABI with state of the art fully automated commercial and investment banking operations.

ABI will be shortly expediting a delegation of specialists to ACT Kindle head office in Dublin to be trained for the implementation of the agreement which eventually will enhance ABI's capacity to produce and market advanced banking services which ABI is known to deliver with care and responsibility.

Saudia to buy 60 new planes — paper

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's state-owned Saudia airline has invited manufacturers to submit offers to supply it with around 60 new planes worth more than \$5 billion, aircraft producers were quoted as saying Saturday.

Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper, quoting officials from the U.S. aircraft manufacturer Boeing, said results of the tender were expected to be announced in about three months' time.

The paper said the order, part of a plan to modernise and expand the airline's fleet, would be the largest of its type in the region.

Saudia, the biggest regional carrier, operates a fleet of 107 planes.

Last week a French newspaper reported Saudi Arabia was about to sign an order for 44 aircraft from Toulouse-based Airbus Industrie.

An airline official declined to comment on either report.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
BIDDING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDANIA					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 10/07/1993					
COMPANY'S NAME					
	TRADED VOLUME JD	PREV. OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
ABRA BANK	493,835	198,000	198,500	192,500	-4,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	604,584	7,460	7,450	7,100	-3,500
BANK OF JORDAN	15,120	5,400	5,400	5,000	-4,000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	42,460	5,430	5,350	5,200	-1,000
THE HARBOR BANK	91,252	2,370	2,370	2,150	-1,200
ABRA BANK	210,741	6,150	6,050	6,320	-1,100
ABRA BANK	48,481	4,750	4,750	4,500	-500
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	63,120	5,380	5,260	5,150	-1,100
ABRA BANK	12,150	3,200	3,200	3,000	-2,000
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	92,213	5,370	5,370	5,290	-800
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	29,492	7,250	7,200	7,200	0
ABRA BANK FOR INVESTMENT	71,103	2,360	2,370	2,070	-2,200
ABRA BANK FOR INVESTMENT/JORDAN	53,070	5,380	5,280	5,010	-1,700
JORDAN INSURANCE	69,947	4,620	4,600	4,640	-100
ABRA BANK FOR INVESTMENT/JORDAN	2,100	4,200	4,200	4,100	-100
ABRAJAN SEAS INSURANCE	3,049	4,200	4,200	4,100	-100
JORDAN FRIENDLY INSURANCE	206,131	4,100	4,140	4,040	-100
JORDAN FRIENDLY INSURANCE	3,800	3,600	3,600	3,600	0
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	76,463	1,400	1,400	3,470	-1,000
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	18,130	2,100	2,100	2,000	-100
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	160,333	2,760	2,710	2,760	0
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	4,369	1,790	1,790	1,790	0
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	12,230	0,320	0,320	0,320	0
EXTON PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	275,000	4,100	4,100	4,150	-100
EXTON PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	76,919	0,810	0,810	0,820	0
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	70,145	3,100	3,100	3,100	0
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	14,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	20,538	1,210	1,210	1,210	0
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	13,357	1,210	1,210	1,210	0
JORDAN PAPER & PUBLISHING/ADCO	114,714	10,320	10,320	10,320	0
JORDAN PAPER & PUBLISHING/ADCO	795,501	2,520	2,520	2,560	-100
JORDAN PAPER & PUBLISHING/ADCO	12,123	2,340	2,340	2,400	-60
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1,692,648	3,200	3,250	3,260	-100
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	28,117	2,100	2,100	2,100	0
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	88,282	12,300	12,300	12,320	-200
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	11,545	3,200	3,150	3,200	-100
JORDAN PETROLEUM & AGRICULTURAL	5,438	3,200	3,100	3,100	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	145,222	12,300	12,150	12,300	-150
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1,148,424	10,600	10,550	10,500	-500
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	14,133	2,410	2,450	2,450	-400
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	111,037	5,600	5,600	5,700	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	28,123	4,420	4,550	4,950	-400
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	875	3,200	3,100	3,100	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	33,445	3,100	3,100	3,100	0
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	5,438	3,200	3,100	3,100	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	106,158	3,200	3,150	3,200	-100
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JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	111,037	5,600	5,600	5,700	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	28,123	4,420	4,550	4,950	-400
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	875	3,200	3,100	3,100	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	33,445	3,100	3,100	3,100	0
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	5,438	3,200	3,100	3,100	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	106,158	3,200	3,150	3,200	-100
JORDAN PETROPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	14,133	2,410	2,450	2,450	-400
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Clinton threatens U.S. action if N. Korea leaves nuclear pact

SEOUL (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton Saturday warned North Korea the United States will take punitive steps — most likely an economic embargo — if it withdraws from a treaty aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Clinton met South Korean Kim Young-Sam for talks that focused on the possible withdrawal by North Korea from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which requires participants to open their nuclear sites to outside inspection.

He also vowed that there will be no reduction in the size of U.S. forces in the region as long as North Korea poses a danger and told the nation's National Assembly that "our troops will stay here as long as the Korean people want them here."

Within hours after he arrived in South Korea following an economic summit in Japan, Mr. Clinton sternly warned that he would not tolerate a nuclear threat from North Korea.

"North Korea must understand our intentions," Mr. Clinton told the Assembly. "We are seeking to prevent aggression, not to initiate it."

"As long as North Korea abides by the U.N. charter and

international non-proliferation commitments, it has nothing to fear," he said.

Although Mr. Clinton did not mention specific steps the United States might take against North Korea, administration officials said actions under consideration include economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

During an exchange with reporters after the talks with Mr. Kim, Mr. Clinton said the possible withdrawal "is of great concern not only to the United States and the Republic of Korea, but all in this region."

"We are resolute to take additional steps if they are required," said Mr. Clinton, who has stressed U.S. determination to provide security to the Pacific region during his trip to Japan and South Korea.

The United States resumes talks with Pyongyang on July 14 in a bid to persuade them to continue honouring the international treaty that went into force in 1970. The pact requires inspections of nuclear sites to ensure they are not being used for weapons development.

"The key issue is inspections," said a senior U.S. official accompanying Mr. Clinton to Korea.

Asked if the United States was using a carrot-and-stick strategy towards North Korea, the official said: "The potential stick would be U.N. sanctions — economic sanctions."

U.S. officials are concerned that North Korea's actions have been prompted by efforts to hide evidence of a nuclear weapons programme.

"No spectre hangs over this region more darkly than the danger of nuclear proliferation," Mr. Clinton told the National Assembly.

Saying that nearly 160 nations have signed the nuclear treaty, Mr. Clinton said it was "the most universally supported treaty in all history."

He said North Korea's threat to withdraw represented the first time any nation has considered abandoning the accord. "We urge North Korea to reaffirm its commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty," Mr. Clinton said.

The U.S. president said there would be no reduction in America's 37,000 troops in South Korea "as long as there is any outstanding question of security regarding this issue" of nuclear arms.

Mr. Clinton told reporters he believes "China can play a constructive role" in trying to persuade North Korea to honour the treaty. Peking is one of the few governments in the world that has ties with North Korea.

U.S. officials believe China has been exerting a positive influence on North Korea not to withdraw from the nuclear treaty.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 South Korean farmers and students rallied at a downtown cathedral hours after the arrival of President Clinton here Saturday to protest U.S. pressure on Seoul to open up its closed rice market.

The protesters sat outside the Yonhong Roman Catholic Cathedral chanting slogans and passing out copies of an open letter addressed to Mr. Clinton demanding that Washington recognise South Korea's right to rice self-sufficiency.

The colourfully dressed farmers, some with their wives and children, then set off on a two-kilometre march through the streets to the city's Pagoda Park.

Riot police stood at a distance but did not try to stop them, witnesses said.

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Yeltsin attacks parliament as well as regions

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Saturday attacked the Russian parliament for claiming the Ukrainian naval port of Sevastopol, and Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow compared the move to the shot that triggered World War I.

The conservative parliament voted overwhelmingly Friday to proclaim Sevastopol — base of the Black Sea Fleet — as Russian property and told the Ukrainian government to remove troops from the area.

The vote threatened to damage relations between Russia and Ukraine who, after months of squabbling over what to do with the fleet, had finally agreed to divide the force equally by 1995.

"I feel ashamed about this decision," ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling reporters in the central Siberian city of Irkutsk as he waited for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to arrive for two days of talks near Lake Baikal.

"The problems of the Black Sea Fleet and the town where it is based must be solved both calmly and gradually," he said. "Otherwise, what do you want me to do — fight with Ukraine?"

Mr. Yeltsin, who wields executive power in Russia, is involved in a power struggle with parliament and is unlikely to pay the resolution much attention.

But a fresh quarrel with Ukraine would be an unwelcome distraction as he struggles to draw up a new constitution for the country which would give him considerably more power.

The vote sparked a predictably angry response from Ukraine.

Volodymyr Kryzhanovsky, Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow, told TASS Saturday that the resolution could be compared to "Gavrilo Princip's shot in Sarajevo."

Mr. Yeltsin convened a special Constitutional Assembly last month to draw up the draft of the new constitution. The body is due to hold its final plenary session Monday.

In Kiev, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk Friday denounced as illegal the Moscow parliament's claim to Sevastopol as Russian property and said it threatened stability throughout the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Kravchuk called on the international community to reject the resolution, approved without a single dissenting vote, and

pledged Ukraine would react "appropriately".

"This decision violates all international norms and has no legal force, in accordance with the Helsinki and other records," Mr. Kravchuk said on television after an emergency meeting with top Ukrainian leaders.

The regions say their protest is primarily financial and in response to what they describe as Moscow's neglect of their economic rights.

Russia's government said Friday it would sack the leader of the Sverdlovsk region for his insubordination.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bright wins Irish Oaks

DUBLIN (R) — French challenger Wemyss Bright Saturday won the Irish Oaks to avenge her Epsom Oaks defeat by stable companion Intrepidity. The filly, a 9-2 chance ridden by Dubliner Pat Eddery, won the 160,000 classic by a hard fought half length from 12-1 shot Royal Ballerina with Oakmead, at 15-2, four lengths further back in third. Intrepidity, an impressive winner of the Epsom Oaks after recovering from an early stumble, never looked dangerous on the galloping Curragh track and the 11-10 favourite eventually finished fourth without ever delivering a serious challenge. Wemyss Bright, trained in France by Andre Fabre, was the second classic success in Ireland within two weeks for Saudi Arabian Prince Khaled Abdullah who said: "I feel great. I am delighted." And well he might because the man of the moment in European horse racing has already won the English 2,000 Guineas with the champion Miller Zatone and landed the Epsom-Irish Derby double with Commander in Chief. But he must still have one major regret about the impressive victories of Commander in Chief and Wemyss Bright — their sire, the Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe winner Dancing Brave, was sold to Japan before his stud career began to sparkle.

Agassi's coach resigns

NEW YORK (R) — Last year's Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi has been dropped by his coach Nick Bollettieri, the New York Times reported Saturday. Bollettieri, 61, resigned as Agassi's coach by letter, saying the distance between them made his job too difficult. "To help him get back to where he used to be close contact," Bollettieri, 61, told the Times. Agassi, 23, lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, while Bollettieri's base is his Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Florida. "There's a space between us," he told the Times. "It's not like it used to be. Whether he'll ever reach his greatest potential, no one knows." Bollettieri has coached the straggly-haired tennis heartthrob for the past two years. Agassi dedicated his 1992 Wimbledon title to his coach and his father. However, Agassi has been getting tennis advice on an informal basis from former world number one John McEnroe and when entertainer Barbara Streisand became part of his support group too, Bollettieri felt displaced, according to the Times.

Sabatini shocked in Osaka semifinals

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Hard-hitting American Lisa Raymond upset top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina Saturday in the women's semifinals of the Gunze World Tennis tournament, while men's top seed Peta Korda of the Czech Republic breezed into the finals. Korda, ranked ninth in the world, beat Australian Mark Woodford 7-5, 6-2 in 67 minutes on an artificial court at the Osaka Municipal Gymnasium in western Japan. Raymond, 19, of Wayne, Pennsylvania, ranked No. 49 in the world, shocked fifth-ranked Sabatini 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the women's semifinals. Leading 5-1 in the third set, Raymond and Sabatini were tied 30-30 when Raymond gained a point with a service and fired an ace to wrap up the one-hour, 34-minute match. "It was a nice match. She played so well," said Sabatini, who skipped a doubles match Friday because of a fever. Raymond faces South African Amanda Coetzer in the women's final Sunday.

Prost on pole for British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Alain Prost, seeking a record 50th Formula One win in Sunday's British Grand Prix, claimed pole position for the race Saturday. Frenchman Prost, driving a Renault-powered Williams, demonstrated his supremacy with a fastest lap of one minute 19.06 seconds at an average speed of 238.13 kph in the closing stages of a thrilling session. Prost and his Williams team mate Briton Damon Hill were vying for pole throughout the final 12 minutes and they traded fastest laps and lead positions until the 54th minute of the hour-long session when Prost clocked the quickest lap of the day. It was the triple world champion's 28th pole position and gives him a perfect opportunity to score his half century and in-

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A SKILL THAT ENDURES

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♦ Q 9 8
▼ A 10 9
○ 9 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 3
WEST
♦ K J 10 5 2 4
▼ 7 6
○ K Q 5 2
♦ Q J 8 6 5 4 7 2
SOUTH
▲ A 7 6 3
▼ 8 4 3
○ A K
♦ A K 10 9
The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Dbl
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠

At the Second World Bridge Olympiad in 1984, a fresh-faced young man just out of college made a great impact on the world bridge scene. Now 28 years later at the recently completed Ninth World Olympiad in Salomaggiore, Italy, Bob Hammer is still showing the form that makes him the top-ranked American in the World Bridge Federation standings.

The one-club opening bid was arti-

ficial, showing a hand of at least 17 points. North's double confirmed some values and South's rebid de-

scribed a balanced 17 to 20 points.

North then boldly jumped to game

Novacek topples Muster at Swiss Open

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Karel Novacek continued his career-long jinx on Thomas as he scored his fourth victory in a row over the Austrian to reach the Swiss Open final here Saturday. Novacek, the third seed from the Czech Republic, frustrated clay court specialist Muster as he found the lines on the big points almost at will for a 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) victory. The second seeded Austrian needed heat cream treatment on his left shoulder after the first game of the second set, but the most successful clay court player this year still could not hide his frustration afterwards. "He was magic today," the Austrian said. "He found the line on almost every big point. What can I do about that?" Novacek, ranked 14th in the world, moved into his fifth final of the year and credited his win to using a tried and tested strategy against his rival. "I played him exactly as I have played him before," said the 28-year-old. "I kept the points short and didn't let him get into any big rallies."

Herrera goes on to Newport semifinals

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — No. 2 Luis Herrera of Mexico overcame the heat and humidity to beat Arne Thoms of Germany 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (7-5), 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the Hall of Fame Championships. With the victory, Herrera earned the right to play third-seeded Javier Frana of Argentina in Saturday's semifinal. Frana defeated amateur Brian MacPhie of San Jose, Calif., 6-7 (7-2), 6-4, 6-3 Friday. In the other semifinal match Saturday, No. 5 Alex Antonisch of Austria will meet Greg Rusedski of Canada.

Polish team may lose title

WARSAW (R) — Polish soccer's governing body Friday recommended docking two points from league champions Legia Warsaw and second-placed LKS Lodz after a bribery scandal — a move that would strip Legia of the title. The Polish Football Association (PZPN) board announced the decision after seven hours of talks but said it would not be final until the PZPN heard appeals by Legia and LKS at a special meeting. If the recommendation is accepted, the championship will go to Lech Poznan who originally finished two points behind Legia and LKS in third place, but have a better goal difference.

S. African Grand Prix cancelled

GENEVA (R) — The South African Motorcycle Grand Prix, final event of the World Championship on Oct. 3, has been cancelled, the International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) said. "The race was cancelled because of financial problems and the current political instability," said FIM Secretary-General Guy Maitre. "For the moment we're looking for an alternative date and venue but we have found neither yet." Maitre said it was common knowledge that the Kyalami Circuit owners, Motor Racing Enterprises, had financial problems, but denied that circuit organisers were looking for an alternative venue only in Europe. Motor Racing Enterprises Managing Director Dave McGregor said on South African radio that he hoped the track could still host the meeting.

Seles may miss U.S. Open



Monica Seles grimaces in pain after a spectator stabbed her with a knife at the Hamburg Open on April 30 (AP photo)

Paris that Seles might never play again. And late last month, Seles and Tolleson denied reports in a German magazine that Seles would be out of action for the rest of the year.

"The report is completely inaccurate," Tolleson said. "No decisions have been made regarding the date of Monica's return to tournament play."

"My doctors and I have to see what happens in the next few weeks to determine if I will be able to play the U.S. Open," Seles said.

Reports persist that Seles' injury is more severe than originally thought:

In May, tennis officials denied there was any truth to rumours in

"I think from the very begin-

ning, the doctors and Monica said, they had no idea how long it would take to recuperate," Tolleson said. "It's day to day, and it's a matter of rehabilitation. And that's what Monica has been doing, rehabbing. She's real dedicated but just not ready."

Seles was ranked No. 1 in the world when she was stabbed on April 30 during a tournament at Hamburg, Germany. Later, the knife-wielding German said he was a Steffi Graf fan who wanted to knock Seles out of the No. 1 spot.

"I really appreciate the support I have received," Tolleson, who has spoken frequently with Seles during her recuperation, said. "But she's hanging in there and working very hard, trying to get healthy so she can get back to playing."

"She wants to be out of the court, so that's obviously frustrating," Tolleson said. "But she's hanging in there and working very hard, trying to get healthy so she can get back to playing."

Museeuw leads in Tour de France

CHALONS-SUR-MARNE, France (R) — Bjarne Riis of Denmark won the seventh stage of the Tour de France in a breakaway which saw Belgian Johan Museeuw take the race leader's yellow jersey Saturday.

Riis surprisingly outspurts two reputedly faster men, Italy's Maximilian Sciandri and Museeuw, after a group of seven got away and maintained a lead of more than two minutes over the main pack.

But Museeuw was happy enough to finish third as he took the overall lead from another sprinter Mario Cipollini. The yellow jersey has now changed hands for days in a row.

Cipollini, in the same GB MG team as Museeuw, led the Peloton home in a mass sprint some two minutes 26 behind.

Museeuw had started the day in 10th place, one minute 22 seconds behind the Italian.

"I wanted to take the yellow jersey today because it might be the only time in my career that I get the chance," the Belgian said.

Henkel predicts drugs at Stuttgart

BONN (Agencies) — Germany's Olympic high jump champion Heike Henkel predicts that some athletes at next month's World Championships in Stuttgart will be using performance-boosting drugs.

"Some people will still be full of them," she said told Mooyard's issue of Der Spiegel magazine. "There will be a lot of negligence in the controls."

But she sympathises with Germany's reigning 100m and 200m world champion, Katrin Krabbe, who has been banned for one year after failing a dope test.

"I sympathise with Katrin Krabbe because her life has been destroyed," she said..

sion about the case until its November Council meeting.

All three women have admitted taking the drug Clenbuterol but a combination of both civil and sporting laws have turned the case into a legal marathon.

But German Athletics Federation (DLV) President Helmut Diegel has called on the IAAF to decide on the case before the World Championships start in Stuttgart next month.

"We want the council to come to a decision at a meeting just before the championships. Otherwise we could get legal problems. I think it would be in the interests of fair play to get a decision made quickly."

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Clinton, Yeltsin pledge further effort to boost ties

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton promised Boris Yeltsin on Saturday that he would sweep away the last vestiges of cold war of trade barriers between the United States and Russia, which he described as "much more alike" now than ever before.

Mr. Clinton also praised his "remarkable" relationship with Mr. Yeltsin and the Russian president said that "our partnership and our friendship is strengthening day by day."

Their breakfast meeting was the first since the Russian-U.S. April summit in Vancouver and Mr. Yeltsin's victory in a crucial referendum on his power and reforms that same month.

Mr. Clinton praised Mr. Yeltsin's bold steps to create a new constitution, which paved the way for billions of dollars U.S.-sponsored economic assistance from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations that met in Tokyo this week.

Acknowledging that the two "still have some differences," Mr. Clinton said: "We represent two great countries that are now very much more alike than they have ever been in their history."

Those differences include Russia's discontent over continued Western trade restrictions and

U.S. concern over Russian sales of missile technology to India and other countries.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin have a lot staked on one another and have had an intense relationship from the beginning.

During this visit, Mr. Clinton several times reached out to Mr. Yeltsin, wrapping him in a one-armed embrace or clasping his hand at the end of their joint news conference.

Both leaders want to keep the momentum of good relations going. Mr. Clinton said he had accepted an invitation to visit Russia, probably this year.

Mr. Clinton also appeared optimistic when asked whether Russia had agreed to stop missile technology sales — a project of the powerful Defence Ministry.

The president said talks were continuing "intensely and immediately," and an aide said an announcement was likely on Thursday in Washington.

One of Mr. Yeltsin's main objectives in Tokyo was to persuade the West to lift trade restrictions left over from the cold war, when economic pressure was used to punish Russia for its political behaviour. But he came away from the economic summit disappointed by the response.

Mr. Clinton, however, offered Mr. Yeltsin fresh assurances, saying he had been working with Congress to eliminate "obsolete" cold war barriers that still impede scientific, cultural and other contacts with Russia.

"We have compiled quite a long list of them that we think cannot be justified anymore," he said. "And there is a strong base of support in both political parties in the United States Congress to remove those laws."

On another issue, the two leaders spoke of prodding Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons for dismantling, though the parliament in Kiev has been unwilling to part with the arms.

At their annual summit, Mr. Clinton and the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan endorsed a \$28.4 billion aid package for Russia that had been assembled in April, then added \$3 billion to help finance the conversion of large state-run enterprises to private hands.

As an example of the new partnership, Mr. Clinton noted that Mr. Yeltsin's wife had an interest in dental care, and the United States had arranged to deliver surplus military equipment to set up two dental clinics in Moscow.

STATE OF ALERT: Israeli gunners prepare themselves on top of their artillery on the border with Lebanon as tension mounted Saturday after five Israeli soldiers were killed in resistance attacks in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Israeli soldiers were killed in resistance attacks in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Arabs and Israelis must show they want peace — Christopher

TOKYO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday renewed efforts to boost stalled Mideast peace talks, saying it was time for Arabs and Israelis to show that they really care about reaching a settlement.

In an interview with American reporters, he said he would be "surprised" if he did not make a trip to the Mideast in the next two months but that would depend on the results of consultations underway in the region by U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and others.

"I think we've reached a point where the United States needs to be active because the process seems to be either slowed down or stalled," Mr. Christopher said.

"We're testing at the present time whether the parties really want us to make the commitment of time and energy," he said, adding: "I think it's up to them to show sufficient flexibility to show that they care enough to justify our time and energy and commitment."

The 10th round of Middle East peace talks ended earlier this month on a gloomy note, with Palestinians questioning the U.S. stand on Jerusalem and Israel faulting an American document aimed at identifying long-simmering differences.

The Clinton administration, openly dissatisfied with the pace of these negotiations, sent Mr. Ross to the Middle East and Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian — who will become ambassador to Israel at year's end — to try to revive the momentum.

Mr. Christopher said he had not yet received a readout of Mr. Ross's trip and did not expect any decisive results at least for several days.

"There will be careful probing with all the players in the Middle East," he said.

About his own plans for a trip to the region, Mr. Christopher said: "That depends almost completely on the results of the conversations (now underway). I would be surprised if Labour Day (Sept. 6) came and went without my having travelled out there but I can't tell you exactly when."

Mr. Christopher's predecessor, James Baker, made repeated trips to the Middle East to get the first face-to-face Arab-Israeli talks started with the October 1991 peace conference in Madrid and subsequently to keep them going.

With this backdrop and the administration's promise to become more directly involved in the peace process, there has been frequent speculation about when Mr. Christopher might make a trip.

He stressed, however, that the Ross-Dejerejian mission represents a very strong U.S. commitment to try and get the parties moving and begin to resolve serious substantive issues.

"We want to use our efforts... with a strong role as an honest broker to get them to face the question as to whether they are interested in the peace process and if they are, won't they get about narrowing the differences," he added.

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